



Crop Progress and Condition

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Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Released: October 5, 2015Issue: 30-15

Agricultural News: Days suitable for fieldwork were 1.6. Field activities for the week were very limited due to the very wet conditions; farmers prepared for the rains and some harvested crops earlier in the week. Temperatures were down and precipitation amounts increased greatly from the previous week; many areas received over three inches of rain. High temperatures were in the 80s, and lows were in the 40s to 60s.

SOIL MOISTURE for week ending 10/04/15

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	%	%	%	%
Topsoil	2	9	42	47
Subsoil	2	12	58	28

- Represents zero.

CROP and LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS for week ending 10/04/15

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	%	%	%	%	%
Corn	1	4	20	57	18
Cotton	-	-	28	69	3
Hay, Alfalfa	-	9	42	45	4
Hay, Other	3	19	37	37	4
Peanuts	-	-	33	63	4
Soybeans	1	12	35	48	4
Pasture	2	15	43	35	5
Livestock	1	7	25	53	14

-Represents zero.

CROP PROGRESS for week ending 10/04/15

Crop Stage	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
	%	%	%	%
Apples harvested	85	80	46	-
Barley planted	25	20	37	39
Corn dented	97	96	97	98
Corn mature	94	90	89	92
Corn for grain harvested	66	60	56	72
Corn for silage harvested	95	90	96	92
Cotton bolls opening	88	80	87	87
Peanuts harvested	10	7	11	9

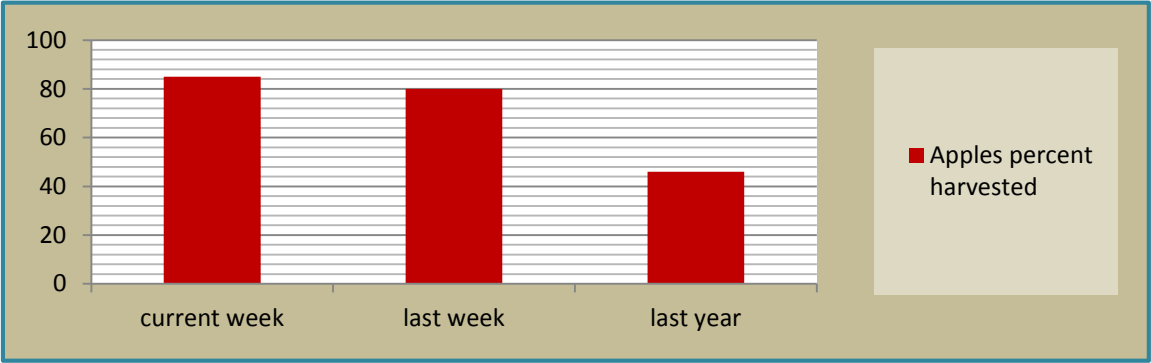
- Represents data not available.

CROP PROGRESS for week ending 10/04/15

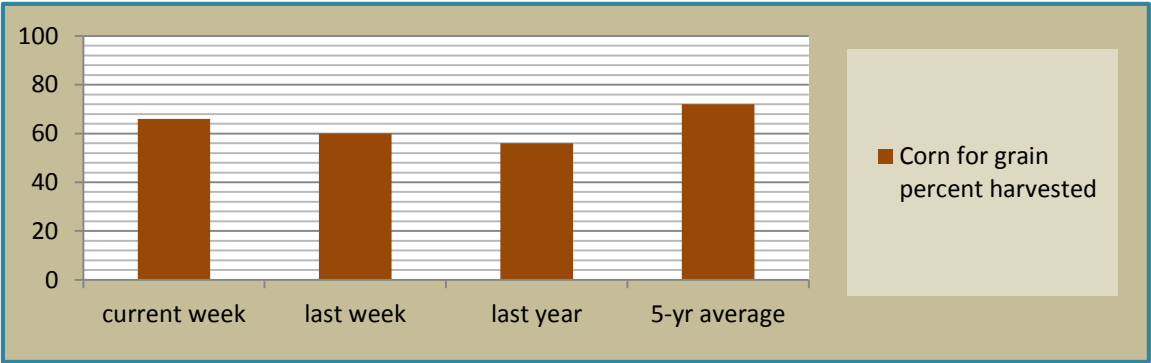
Crop Stage	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
	%	%	%	%
Soybeans setting pods	98	97	98	100
Soybeans dropping leaves	55	42	45	52
Tobacco, Flue-cured cut	85	80	79	80
Winter wheat planted	9	7	13	16

- Represents data not available.

APPLES HARVESTED for week ending 10/04/15



CORN FOR GRAIN HARVESTED for week ending 10/04/15



Weather Summary- For the week ending October 04, 2015

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50)		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Oct. 3	Mar. 1 to Oct. 3 norm	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	67	58	83	47	62	-1	3769	3569	6.59	9.22	4.96	33.96	0.00
Norfolk	77	70	83	65	73	5	4509	3981	4.73	8.35	3.91	41.47	4.78
Richmond	72	60	85	50	66	1	4397	3866	2.97	5.52	1.18	38.22	3.79
Roanoke	67	58	83	47	63	0	3966	NA	6.45	10.78	6.59	42.20	8.71
Wash/Dulles	68	57	80	48	62	0	3808	NA	3.28	4.00	-0.16	31.30	-0.96

* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. NA-Not available. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY – Comments are based on remarks made by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

NORTHERN

FREDERICK (Mark Sutphin)

Over 2" of precipitation fell across the county in the last week with significant rainfall forecasted for the next few days.

WESTERN

ROCKBRIDGE (Thomas A Stanley)

The week started with a badly needed steady rain on Monday followed by heavy rain with some flash flooding on Tuesday. Another round of heavy rain and flooding was forecast for Friday and Saturday but in the end it was not as heavy as Tuesday's rain. For the week, Rockbridge received rainfall totals ranging from 2 to 4 inches. Virtually no field work was conducted this week due to wet conditions.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Laura Siegle)

This week has been wet and rainy with no good days for field work.

AMHERST (Alyssa Elliott)

Heavy rainfall on 9/27, 9/29, and 10/2 with additional showers and rain throughout the week.

CAROLINE (Mike Broaddus)

The recent rains of Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday have yielded almost five inches of rain to the PD-16 area of Virginia. This rain was greatly needed, not only for moistening the topsoil but recharging the groundwater, which was very low due to the late summer drought. Corn is primarily harvested and soybeans have reached physiological maturity, so the rain will not help them. However, this rain has made a good environment for small grain planting and has renewed the grass growth in hayfields and pastures.

CUMBERLAND (David Smith)

Received 3" of much needed rain.

HENRICO (Karen Carter)

Experienced strong nor'easter with the influence of an offshore hurricane.

SPOTSYLVANIA (John Howe)

Conditions are very wet.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Weather conditions limited field work, but a few producers harvested corn early in the week. Producers also spent time preparing for late week/weekend storm. Overall, the area fared pretty well. Rainfall was steady for the most part, and dry soils were able to soak it well. A few acres were flooded during high tides. Farmers are now waiting for drying conditions so that soybean harvest can continue and small grain seeding can begin.

GLOUCESTER (David Moore)

Corn harvest continues in anticipation of Hurricane Joaquin. Yields remain good. Full season soybeans have lost a lot of leaves and quality drops with every rain now as double crops have improved their situation. Will be a few days before returning to corn fields. Over 4 inches have fallen this week with more on the way for the weekend. Suspect field prep for small grain and cover crop planting will begin as things dry up some. Cucumber, peppers and squash harvest continues as does pumpkins and sweet potatoes. Haymaking may also commence as things dry down some.

LANCASTER (Trent Jones)

High winds and rains resulted in flooding of low lying coastal areas in Northumberland and Lancaster Counties.

NORTHAMPTON (Ursula Deitch)

The nor'easter that came through the state this past week yielded significant winds and 3-6" of rain over Northampton County. The majority of corn has been harvested and the soybean crop seemed to fair well. Grain sorghum throughout the county was majorly impacted.

SOUTHWESTERN

CARROLL (Steve Pottorff)

Rainfall this week is causing concerns about finishing the pumpkin and cabbage harvest.

GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)

Some areas of the county have seen over 12 inches of rain in the last 10 days. There were no days this week suitable for field operations as corn silage, hay, and pumpkin harvests ground to a halt. Feeder calf shipments have also slowed dramatically.

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Rain from the hurricane was much welcomed. Corn looks good this year, considering growing conditions.

SMYTH (Andy Overbay)

Rainfall in the county this week was adequate as compared to the excessive rains to our east. Moisture has helped fall pastures the most, allowing grass to rebound from recent dry spells and heavier than normal grazing pressure.

SOUTHERN

FRANKLIN (Cynthia Martel)

Franklin County has been extremely wet, rain for 9 days straight with areas in the county receiving over 10 inches of rain. All field work will be stopped for a while.

HENRY (Melanie Barrow)

Henry County received anywhere from 6" to 10" of rain over the last seven days, depending on what part of the county you were in. The western half of the county saw the most with the rivers and creeks coming out of their banks on Wednesday afternoon by 4:00 pm on that side of the county. They had receded back by 10:00 pm. There was no reported flooding over the weekend throughout the county.

LUNENBURG (Lindy Tucker)

I don't know that I really need to comment on this but things are wet, very wet. The 4+ inches from the previous week soaked in well, but we added several more inches this week. Although it rained all week this week, some tobacco was pulled. Otherwise, no one was in the field. Hoping for some sunshine this week to dry things out for harvest and planting. Thankful the hurricane missed us or we would be in real trouble. I imagine there will be some crop loss due to the sheer amount of precipitation we have had - can't tell too well yet.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia Gregg)

Minor flooding and ponding of water in pastures and crop fields are evident across the county. Some soybeans that have begun to drop leaves have fallen over with the rain and storms this past week. Some tobacco fields have been stripped, while others still have some tips to be harvested. These fields are showing damage due to the excess rainfall. Crop fields will be monitored to see to what extent the damage is in them as the flooding and ponding recedes.

GREENSVILLE (Nichole Norton)

8 inches of rain at the office.

MECKLENBURG (Taylor Clarke)

It is too wet to do anything, but still fortunate not to have more damage than isolated flooding and a down tree or two, soybeans and tobacco will have to suffer some damage from extended wet conditions.

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

No fieldwork accomplished this week. Rainfall was 4-5 inches across most of the county so it will be several days before fieldwork resumes. We escaped major crop damage since winds were moderate. Flooding is also minimal though water is standing in low areas of some fields. Early maturing soybeans that are near harvest will likely have some seed damage with the prolonged damp conditions.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

A week of heavy rain, which started last Monday 9/28/15 has stopped field work. Totals varied from 6-12 inches.

SUSSEX (Kevin Wells)

Heavy rains fell over the area during the entire week and put an end to fall harvest for now. We needed some rainfall for our dry conditions but not these big amounts. We hope the rains will not cause damage to our crops.

VIRGINIA BEACH CITY (Roy D. Flanagan)

The agriculture area of Virginia Beach faired pretty well during the storms last week even though we saw from 9.1-10.2 inches of rainfall. Our agritainment farms (pumpkin patch, corn maze, etc.) are seeing the bulk of the storm related issues with unsuitable weather or field conditions keeping them closed. Also, to date only about 35% of our strawberry crop is in the ground. If we can keep drying conditions, the rest of the acreage will go in the ground a week or two later than our optimum planting date.